(b) and (c) Around 962 acres of airport land is under encroachment at various airports in the country. The encroachments are generally in the form of hutments, pucca/semi-pucca structures and unauthorized cultivation. At few airports like Mumbai and Hyderabad, encroachment in the form of multi-storeyed structures exists. The matter has been taken up with the State Governments for removal and/or rehabilitation of the encroachers from airport land as per the policy of the State Government. Fencing/boundary wall around the area of the airport has been constructed to safeguard the airport land from encroachers. The breaches on the fencing/boundary wall are repaired to stop the encroachers from entering the airport land. There are plans to construct motorable road along the perimeter wall for keeping a continuous watch. Parts of encroachment at Mumbai have been cleared and merged with the operational area. As regard slums bordering the boundary wall and located on private/State Government land, which pose a threat to air safety, Airports Authority of India is requesting concerned State Governments for shifting these slums under their policy.

IA package to Andhra Pradesh

3096. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines has offered any package to the Government of Andhra Pradesh which will promote tourism here in coordination with Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the State Government's reaction in that regard; and

(d) what is the present status of the package?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Indian Airlines has already initiated the process with Department of Tourism, Government of Andhra Pradesh for signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The MoU will be signed shortly, after which

the holiday packages will be launched jointly by Indian Airlines and Department of Tourism, Government of Andhra Pradesh for promotion of tourism.

International flights from Hyderabad Airport

3097. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether airlines of UK, Switzerland, Singapore and Sri Lanka have shown interest to operate their flights to and from Hyderabad Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to grant permission to these airlines to start their flights; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (d) Government of Singapore and Sir Lanka have requested for Hyderabad as an additional point of call for their respective designated airlines. However British Airways and Swiss Air who had in the past shown interest to operate to Hyderabad have not followed it up. Such requests are considered during bilateral air services consultations with respective Governments as and when held.

Losses due to open sky policy

3098. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether open sky policy to tide over the capacity crunch as a short term solution is causing loss of Rs. 15,000 crores with 40 international flights discontinuing operation;

(b) whether Welcome Travels owns a sum of about Rs. 3 crores paid to them during 1997-98 because of excess commission by Air India; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government on both the issues?